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RUEHLZ RUEHPOD RUEHROV RUEHSR RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHLI #1975 2211709
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 081709Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6979
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS LISBON 001975

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/MLS:LSCHEIBE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: PORTUGAL DEFERS TO EU ON STRONGER BURMA SANCTIONS

REF: SECSTATE 83719

[1](#)1. (U) Portugal continues to support the EU consensus regarding sanctions against Burma, according to Joao Terenas of the MFA's Asia Office. Terenas thanked us for the briefing on stronger U.S. sanctions but declined to comment on the prospects for stronger EU sanctions pending further discussion in Brussels.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Comment: Portugal tends to view Burma as outside its sphere of influence and looks to Asian powers to encourage change. Portugal generally does not support tightening sanctions, and opposed stronger measures against Burma earlier this year, but if EU consensus calls for stronger measures, Portugal is likely to go along. End comment.
Stephenson